



# State of Tennessee Department of Education

## ELL Students in Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) Testing

The purpose for including our student population of English Language Learners (ELL) in our Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program is to help ensure that children who are limited English proficient, including immigrant children and youth, attain English proficiency, develop high levels of academic attainment in English, and meet the same challenging State academic content and student academic achievement standards as all children are expected to meet.

The following references from the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* provide the basis for this inclusion.

Title III Section 3121(c) includes the percentage of children who-  
(C) are meeting the same challenging State academic content and student academic achievement standards as **all children** are expected to meet; and  
(D) are **not receiving waivers** for the reading or language arts assessments required under this section

Section 1111(b) (3) (F) of Title I says that State assessments shall provide for:

- i. the participation in such assessments of **all** students;
- ii. the reasonable adaptations and accommodations for students with diverse learning needs, necessary to measure the achievement of such students relative to State content standards; and
- iii. the inclusion of **limited English proficient students** who shall be assessed, to the extent practicable, in the language and form most likely to yield accurate and reliable information on what such students know and can do, to determine such students' mastery of skills in subjects other than English.

Federal guidance allows for NO BLANKET EXEMPTION for English Language Learners (ELL) in state mandated assessments. All ELL students who have been in the state for a full academic year will be included and held accountable at some level within the state. Level of accountability will be determined by time of enrollment within the school, district, and state. A list of approved accommodations has been provided for English Language Learners in state assessments.

In addition to participation in the state assessment, an annual assessment of English Proficiency using the IDEA Proficiency Test (IPT) must be given. The level of performance must be reported to the State Department of Education on the annual LEP Prior Year Survey.